

plant pests, pest management, and pesticides. The Office also coordinates these programs with local, State and federal officials. In addition, the Office manages cooperative agreements with local, county, State and federal agencies.

Under the Office are seven sections: Forest Pest Management; Mosquito Control; Pesticide Regulation; Plant Protection; State Chemist; Turf and Seed; and Weed Control.

FOREST PEST MANAGEMENT SECTION

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The Forest Pest Management Section was formed from the Gypsy Moth Control Section in 1987. The Section protects forests by eradicating or controlling insect (particularly gypsy moth) infestations and disease.

The gypsy moth is the most destructive forest pest of the eastern United States. It harms trees in wooded residential areas, parks, and recreation areas. Consequently, the moth is the subject of a State and a national quarantine program. This pest has been present in Maryland since 1971. Despite an active suppression program, the gypsy moth continues threatening unprotected trees.

The *Cooperative Gypsy Moth Suppression Program* works to manage the moth. Coordinated by the Forest Pest Management Section, the Program is a joint effort by local and State agencies and the U.S. Forest Service. Branch offices of the Forest Pest Management Section are located in Bel Air, Cheltenham, Cumberland, Denton, and Frederick.

MOSQUITO CONTROL SECTION

Cyrus R. Lesser, *Chief*
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The Mosquito Control Section provides statewide mosquito control services through a cooperatively funded program. Branch offices are located in Riverdale, Salisbury, and Leonardtown. Environmentally compatible methods of pest management are used to control mosquitoes. In addition to implementing control measures, the Section monitors the environmental impact of the program, develops new control methods, and conducts epidemiological investigations of mosquito-borne diseases (Code Agriculture Article, secs. 5-401 through 5-405).

PESTICIDE REGULATION SECTION

Mary Ellen Setting, *Chief*
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Administration of the Pesticide Applicators Law began in 1973 under the Division of Entomology. By 1975, the work continued under the Pest Management Section. A separate Pesticide Applicators Law Section was formed in 1980 and became the Pesticide Regulation Section in 1987.

The Section regulates the use of pesticides in Maryland. It licenses businesses engaged in commercial application of pesticides; trains and certifies commercial and private pesticide applicators; and enforces the Pesticide Applicators Law and Regulations. The Section also provides technical advice on the use of pesticides.

The Chief is the State's authority on matters relating to pesticide use and application (Code Agriculture Article, secs. 5-201 through 5-211).

PLANT PROTECTION SECTION

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The Plant Protection Section administers programs for nursery inspection, plant protection and quarantine, integrated pest management, and nuisance bird control. The Section also oversees programs for certified plant production, inspection and registration of honey bee colonies, and implementation of the Interstate Pest Control Compact.

The Section serves as the State's authority on plant pests and agricultural quarantines and as liaison for the Department with other State and federal regulatory agencies (Code Agriculture Article, secs. 5-301 through 5-313, 5-501 through 5-507, 5-701 through 5-716, 5-801 through 5-805).

STATE CHEMIST SECTION

Warren R. Bontoyan, *State Chemist*
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The office of State Agricultural Chemist was created in 1847 to help farmers rejuvenate worn-out tobacco land (Chapter 249, Acts of 1847). The Chemist analyzed soil throughout the State as well as marl and other mineral or vegetable deposits which might be applied as fertilizers, and lectured and publicized his findings. During the guano boom of the 1840s and 1850s, a Guano Inspector also analyzed all guano imported through Baltimore to ensure that farmers got that for which they paid. Modern equivalents of such duties are carried out by the State Chemist Section.

The State Chemist Section began under the Office of Animal Health and Consumer Services and moved in 1987 to the Office of Plant Industries and Resource Conservation (now Plant Industries and Pest Management). The Section samples and chemically tests and analyzes commercial fertilizers, feeds, pesticides, soil conditioners, and liming materials sold in the State. The Section registers and examines the labels of these products as well. It determines if products conform to standards established under Maryland laws governing quality, contents, and labeling. These measures protect the consumer and the dealer from unscrupulous or careless manufacturers.

The Section cooperates with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in the inspection of feed manu-